***To Kill a Mockingbird***: The Film

1.What other films or stories does To Kill a Mockingbird remind you of? How are they alike? How do they differ?

2. How does the film compare to the images of childhood represented in other movies or television programs you have seen? Do you think the characters of the children are believable? Why or why not?

3.Does this 40-year-old film about a fictional incident in 1932 “work” now? Are the ideas outdated, or are the issues still relevant (important)? Support your response.

4. Why does Atticus agree to defend Tom Robinson, even though he knows from the outset that the jury will find Robinson guilty?

5. Scout spends a lot of time pondering (thinking about) social class in Maycomb and where her family fits into its class structure. What does she figure out?

6. What is the role of social class in the outcome of the trial?

7.Atticus Finch is unsuccessful in his defense of Tom Robinson. But in what ways does the defense succeed?

8.A pivotal scene in the film comes when Atticus, who hates guns, shoots a rabid dog in the street. What does this scene have to do with the larger themes of the film?

9.What do Scout and Jem learn about the black community when they attend First Purchase African M.E. Church with Calpurnia?

10. What do the two stories—that of the trial and that of the children’s relationship with Boo Radley—have to do with one another?

11.Consider the parent-child relationships in the film—Atticus and Jem and Scout, Walter and Mr. Cunningham, Dill and his absent parents, Maybelle and Mr. Ewell. How are they the same? Different? How do the childrens’ relationships with their parents affect their behavior and attitudes?